country (this includes hospitals of Central Government, State Government, local Government Bodies and Community Health Centres).

(b) The average population served per Government hospital is approximately 1.45 lakhs. The average population served per hospital in the State of Uttarakhand is approximately 78,127.

(c) Various steps have been taken to increase the availability of medical facilities in the Tenth Five Year Plan, which, *inter alia* include evolution and implementation of different models of health care financing at the individual, family, institution and state level; and replication of various models found most suitable for providing essential health care to all levels; facilitating the appropriate interventions to ease the existing funding constraints at all levels of health system and to promote the complete and timely utilization of allocated funds. The details are given in the Tenth Five Year Plan document in Chapter 2.8 and Chapter 2.10.

Bird Flu in Manipur

*4. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are well aware about the bird flu in Manipur State recently;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken in this regard and for the prevention of similar flu in other States;

(c) the total number of poultry birds killed and expected to be killed for the protection of such and other birds in the country; and

(d) whether this flu has reached India from China, Tibet or Nepal?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Government has notified the outbreak of Avian Influenza (H5NI) in Manipur on 25th July 2007.

(b) Control and containment measures were initiated immediately to stamp out and prevent the spread of the disease in poultry. The details are at Annexure.

(c) Approximately 3.36 lakh birds have been killed in the control operations till now.

(d) A committee has been set up to assess the source of infection in the outbreak of Avian Influenza in Manipur.

Election to General Body/Delegates of CGECCS Ltd.

*5. SHRl MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the provisions of Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002 and bye-law No. 23 (ii) of Central Government Employees Consumer Cooperative Society Ltd. (Kendriya Bhandar), Board of Directors (BoD) are responsible to conduct election to the general body/delegates within the stipulated period;

(b) whether election to the general body/delegates was conducted in the year 1999 for a period of three years and if so, the reasons for not ensuring the elections when they became due; and

(c) the action taken by Central Registrar, MSCS to conduct the election on time and to declare BoD ineligible for continuation/further election as delegate/member of the Board?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes. Sir. As per the provisions of the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002 and bye-law No. 23 (ii) of the Kendriya Bhandar, it is the responsibility of the Board to conduct election of delegates of general body.

(b) and (c) The election to the representative general body of Kendriya Bhandar was held in September, 1999 for a period of three years from the date of election or till their successor are elected, if they have not ceased to be members in accordance with provisions of the bye-laws. *Vide* amended bye-law no. 14 as approved by the general body, and registered on 9th May, 2003, the term of the delegates to the general body was fixed for a period of 5 years. In the meantime, there was a dispute regarding membership of the Kendriya Bhandar agitated *vide* writ petition no. 8983-84 of 2005 before the Delhi High Court. On the direction of the High Court of Delhi in the above writ petition the Central Registrar decided the matter of membership *vide* order dated 8th December, 2006. The election to the delegates of general body have since been held in February, 2007. Further, Returning Officer is the competent authority to decide the issue of disqualification of the candidates under the provisions of the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002, if election is not conducted in time. Also infirmity regarding conduct of election can be agitated as an election dispute under section 84 (2) (c) of the Act.

Packages for Vidarbha and its monitoring

†*6. SHRl DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of packages announced for the fanners of Vidarbha area of Maharashtra during the year 2006-07;

(b) the amount provided to the farmers of Vidarbha from these packages;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted by Government to ascertain that funds are reaching the farmers or not; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to enable farmers to get rid of debt and overcome any crisis they may face in the course of cultivation in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) During the year 2006-07, Government of India announced a rehabilitation package amounting to Rs. 3873.26 crore to mitigate the distress of farmers in six identified districts namely Akola, Wardha, Amravati, Buldana, Wasim and Yavatmal Vidarbha region of Maharashtra.

(c) The Government is keeping close watch over the actual implementation of the rehabilitation package to ensure that the intended benefits under the package reach the farmers. Implementation of the package is being closely monitored by the Government of Maharashtra at State, Divisional and District level. Besides, Government of India is also monitoring the progress regularly.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.